

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-08
/059 W

-----111030Z 122348 /23-12

R 110945Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6082

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3491

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LDP FACTIONS "DISBANDING"

SUMMARY. TO IMPROVE LDP PUBLIC IMAGE, NEARLY ALL CONSERVATIVE
FACTIONS ARE DISBANDING TO BE RECONSTITUTED AS STUDY GROUPS.
PROCESS IS ALMOST WHOLLY COSMETIC AND FACTIONS BY NEW NAMES
WILL REMAIN BASIC FEATURE OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY OPERATIONS. END
SUMMARY.

1. AS PART OF PRIMIN FUKUDA AND LDP SEC GEN OHIRA'S PLAN TO
"REVITALIZE" LDP, NEARLY ALL CONSERVATIVE FACTIONS ARE IN PROCESS
OF FORMALLY DISBANDING. FUKUDA, OHIRA, FUNADA AND MIZUTA FACTIONS
HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, AND TANAKA AND NAKASONE FACTIONS HAVE
ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO DISBAND WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS. IRONICALLY,
MIKI FACTION IS ONLY MAJOR FACTION THAT HAS YET TO PROMISE
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DISSOLUTION.

2. IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS OF FORMAL DISBANDMENT, HOWEVER, FACTIONS
WILL FORM AGAIN UNDER NEW NAMES AS STUDY GROUPS. OSTENSIBLY
(AND LEGALLY), THESE GROUPS WILL NOT BE "POLITICAL" ORGANIZATIONS
AND THUS NOT HAVE TO REGISTER WITH HOME MINISTRY, BUT IN FACT
THEY ARE EXPECTED TO FUNCTION VERY MUCH AS THEIR PREDECESSOR

FACTIONS.

3. DISBANDMENT OF FACTIONS COMES IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING PUBLIC CRITICISM AND RECENTLY STRENGTHENED POLITICAL FUNDS CONTROL LEGISLATION. FOR YEARS PUBLIC HAS ASSOCIATED FACTIONS WITH SECRET DEALS AND FINANCIAL IMPROPRIETIES. NEW CONTROLS ON POLITICAL FUNDS APPLY TO ALL "POLITICAL" ORGANIZATIONS, FACTIONS AS WELL AS PARTIES, MAKING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR FACTION LEADERS TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENTLY BROAD FUNDING SOURCES TO MEET STRINGENT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. NEW STUDY GROUPS WILL NOT BE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. COMMENT. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, DISBANDMENT OF FACTIONS IS NOT BEING TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY. MOREOVER, MUCH OF FACTIONAL DISSOLUTION'S PR VALUE WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY LOST WHEN SITUATION EXPLAINED ACCURATELY BY SEVERAL COMMENTATORS INCLUDING NHK REPORTER WHO DISCUSSED ISSUE ON JAPANESE EQUIVALENT OF CRONKITE SHOW. WE WOULD EXPECT, HOWEVER, SOME SLIGHT SHIFTS IN GROUP MEMBERSHIPS. AS OHIRA LIEUTENANT RECENTLY PUT IT TO EMBOFF, ALTHOUGH OLD FACTIONAL PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL TIES WILL PERSIST, ALL FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES OF THIS SORT BRING SOME FEW SHIFTS AT PERIPHERY. PROCESS WAS PROBABLY LEAST PAINFUL FOR PRIMIN FUKUDA, WHOSE LARGE FACTION HAS SERVED PURPOSE OF GETTING HIM TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, BUT IS BECOMING ECONOMIC BURDEN. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO03491
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Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770366/aaaacguf.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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Subject: LDP FACTIONS ("DISBANDING") SUMMARY. TO IMPROVE LDP PUBLIC IMAGE, NEARLY ALL CONSERVATIVE FACTIONS ARE DISBANDING TO BE RECONSTITUTED AS STU
TAGS: PINT, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/689f24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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